

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/711,667

Applicant(s)

KUO ET AL.

Examiner

Amy He

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to The RCE filed July 18, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/29/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Ms. Belinda Lee on September 24, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Abstract:

On line 2, replaced "comprises" with -- includes --.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 3-14 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 3-8 are allowable because none of the prior art discloses a method for measuring at least two capacitor pairs, wherein each of the capacitor pairs comprises at least a first capacitor and a second capacitor, the method comprising: providing a first switch, a second switch and a third switch to each capacitor pair, wherein a second terminal of each first switch is connected to a first pad, and a second terminal of each second switch is connected to a second pad; providing a P-type transistor, wherein the gate of the P-type transistor is connected to a second terminal of each third switch, the

Art Unit: 2858

drain of the P-type transistor is connected to a third pad, and the source of the P-type transistor is connected to a fourth pad; wherein a capacitance of one of the first capacitor, the capacitance of one of the second capacitor, or a ratio of a difference between the capacitance of the one of the first capacitors and the capacitance of one of the second capacitors is measured via the first pad, the second pad, the third pad and the fourth pad, and in the combination as claimed.

Claims 9-14 are allowable because none of the prior art discloses a circuit for measuring at least two capacitor pairs, wherein each of the capacitor pairs comprises at least a first capacitor and a second capacitor, the circuit comprising: a plurality of first switches, a plurality of second switches and a plurality of third switches, wherein a second terminal of each first switch is connected to a first pad, and a second terminal of each second switch is connected to a second pad; a P-type transistor, wherein the gate of the P-type transistor is connected to a second terminal of each third switch, the drain of the P-type transistor is connected to a third pad, and the source of the P-type transistor is connected to a fourth pad; wherein a capacitance of one of the first capacitors, the capacitance of one of the second capacitors, or a ratio of a difference between the capacitance of the one of the first capacitors and the capacitance of one of the second capacitors is measured via the first pad, the second pad, the third pad and the fourth pad, and in the combination as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2858

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

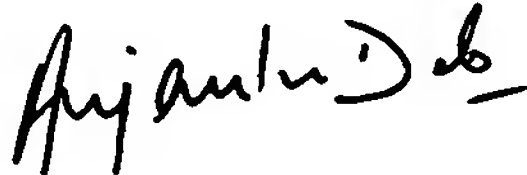
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy He whose telephone number is (571) 272-2230. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AH

September 21, 2007.


ANJAN DEB
PRIMARY EXAMINER